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CURRENT LITERATURE

MINOR NOTICES

Trees and shrubs.—Part III of the second volume of this work has been issued,¹ and contains full and lucid descriptions of some 30 species, 25 of which are accompanied by carefully executed full-page illustrations, including detailed drawings of flowers and fruit. Nearly all of the plants considered are native in the South Atlantic and Gulf states, and about one-half of the species treated are new to science. New species are published in the following genera: *Quercus* (1), *Hamamelis* (1), *Crataegus* (3), *Prunus* (6), and *Sambucus* (1). The high standard of excellence, characteristic of the previous parts, is fully maintained in the present issue.—J. M. GREENMAN.

Flora of Congo.—A second fascicle² of the third volume of this work has appeared recently, which records the results of further studies in several families of spermatophytes from the Gramineae to the Compositae. A number of species new to science are included, described, and illustrated in the same excellent manner as in previous fascicles of this flora.—J. M. GREENMAN.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Experiments with maize.—Several years ago BLARINGHEM³ published a monograph on his now well known experiments in the production of anomalies in various plants as the result of mutilation. The mutilations forced into development buds which ordinarily remain latent, and the branches produced from these buds frequently possessed characters not recognized as normal features of the plants operated on. In a small percentage of cases the abnormalities thus brought to light were found to be inherited to a greater or less degree, and the conclusion was reached that mutilation is a very general and easy means of provoking mutability and an important factor in the evolution of vegetable forms. Most of his experiments were made with maize, though some apparently corroboratory evidence was derived from barley (*H. distichum* and *H. tetrastichum*) and mustard (*Sinapis alba*). All of the new characters, abnormal or otherwise, which came to light in his experiments with maize

¹ SARGENT, CHARLES SPRAGUE, *Trees and shrubs*. Illustrations of new or little known ligneous plants, etc. 4to, pp. 117-190. *pls.* 151-175. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1911. \$5.00.

² DE WILDEMAN, ÉMILE, *Flore du Bas- et du Moyen Congo*. Ann. Mus. Congo Belge. Bot. V. 3: 149-316. *pls.* 28-49. 1910. Brussels.

³ BLARINGHEM, L., *Mutation et traumatismes. Étude sur l'évolution des formes végétales*. pp. 248. *pls.* 8. Paris: Felix Alcan. 1908.